

Aylesbury Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1907.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE AYLESBURY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1907.

Area of District	3,301 acres.
Population (Census 1901).....	9,244
Estimated to middle of 1907.....	9,445

			Per 1,000 of Population.
Deaths registered in 1907	159	—	16·80
Corrected death-rate	121	—	12·80
Births registered in 1907	228	—	24·10

			Per 1,000 Births registered.
Infant mortality in 1907	30	--	131·50

			Per 1,000 of Population.
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.....	8	—	·80

Statistics for the past ten years:—

BIRTHS.

			Per 1,000 of Population.
1898	210	.....	22·96
1899	221	.....	24·09
1900	208	.....	22·58
1901	253	.....	28·37
1902	246	.....	26·47
1903	243	.....	26·06
1904	235	.....	25·70
1905	218	.....	23·24
1906	224	.....	23·79
1907	228	.....	24·10
Averages for the 10 years,			
1897—1906 ...	231·2	.....	25·11

DEATHS.

			Per 1,000 of Population.
1898	122	.....	13·34
1899	178	.....	19·39
1900	142	.....	15·41
1901	148	.....	16·22
1902	142	.....	15·28
1903	160	.....	17·16
1904	168	.....	17·95
1905	130	.....	13·85
1906	157	.....	16·67
1907	159	.....	16·80
Averages for the 10 years,			
1897—1906...	150·9	.....	16·30

INFANT MORTALITY.

		Per 1,000 Births registered.	
1898	22	104.76	
1899	40	180.09	
1900	23	110.57	
1901	23	113.86	
1902	29	117.78	
1903	27	111.00	
1904	37	153.19	
1905	8	36.69	
1906	19	84.80	
1907	30	131.50	
Averages for the 10 years,			
1897—1906...	25.6	112.29	

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

		Per 1,000 of Population.	
1898	17	1.74	
1899	22	2.22	
1900	14	1.51	
1901	13	1.40	
1902	9	.96	
1903	20	2.13	
1904	18	1.92	
1905	4	.42	
1906	11	1.16	
1907	8	.80	
Averages for the 10 years,			
1897—1906 ...	13.7	1.43	

Of the 228 births registered during 1907, 119 were males, 109 females; of the 30 deaths of infants under one year, 16 were males, 14 females.

The deaths numbered 159, which is equal to a death-rate of 16.80 per 1,000 living. This is 0.50 more than the average for the previous ten years. Thirty-eight deaths of non-residents took place in public institutions within the district; these being deducted from the total number of deaths registered, leaves 121 as the number of nett deaths of those belonging to the district, and this gives a corrected death-rate of 12.80, which may be regarded as a satisfactory rate; the corrected death-rate for 1906 was 13.91, and the average corrected death-rate for the previous ten years was 13.64.

Thirty deaths occurred under one year of age, six between one and five years, four between five and fifteen years, eight between fifteen and twenty-five years, sixty-one between twenty-five and sixty-five years, and fifty from sixty-five and upwards.

Nineteen deaths occurred in persons eighty years old and upwards; the oldest being a man of ninety-five.

The causes of death were:—

Bronchitis	18	Alcoholism	3
Heart Disease	18	Cerebral Meningitis ..	3
Pneumonia	13	Nephritis	3
Cancer	12	Enteritis	2
Senile Decay	12	Pleurisy	2
Phthisis	9	Measles	1
Accidents.....	9	Whooping Cough ...	1
Premature Birth ...	5	Diarrhœa	1
Apoplexy ..	5	Puerperal Fever.....	1
Influenza	4	Other causes	34
Tubercular Diseases .	3		

Infant Mortality.—Thirty deaths of infants under one year took place, equal to a death-rate of 131·50 per 1,000 births registered. This exceeds the average for the preceding ten years, which is 25·6 or a rate of 112·29; this low average was due to the small number of deaths during the years 1905 and 1906, which were respectively 8 and 19.

The causes of deaths under one year were:—

Bronchitis	6	Acute Meningitis	1
Premature Birth	5	Marasmus	1
Insufficient Vitality	4	Whooping Cough	1
Pneumonia	3	Measles	1
Congenital Heart Disease	2	Laryngitis Stridulous ...	1
Convulsions	2	Intussusception	1
Tubercular Meningitis ...	1	Want of attention at birth	1

In considering the question of the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, which involves the appointment of special health visitors, I have advised the Council to postpone the matter for six months, when sufficient time will have elapsed to enable the working of the Act to be observed in large centres of population, where it appears to be more urgently required than in small urban districts.

Zymotic Diseases.—The deaths from zymotic diseases numbered 8, equal to a death-rate per 1,000 of population of 0·80; the averages for the preceding ten years being 13·7 and 1·43. The causes of death were measles, 1; whooping cough, 1; influenza, 4; diarrhœa, 1; puerperal fever, 1.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—Seventeen notifications only were received during the year, as follows:—

Erysipelas	7	Scarlet Fever	1
Diphtheria	4	Puerperal Pyæmia...	1
Phthisis	4		

The scarlet fever case was that of a woman who travelled to Aylesbury from Plumstead in the peeling stage, three of her children being in the Woolwich Isolation Hospital at the time suffering from the disease; she was admitted into the Isolation Hospital in the Stoke Road, and detained there from the 2nd January to the 13th February, when she was discharged cured. This was the only occasion during the year on which it was found necessary to open the hospital.

The four cases of diphtheria occurred in patients aged respectively 2, 10, 19, and 18, the last being an imported case. The number of cases of this disease notified compares very favourably with the returns for former years; to some extent I attribute the improvement to the provision by the Council of free examination of membranes from the throats of suspected cases, it being probable that formerly some cases were returned as diphtheria which resembled that disease, but in which no bacteriological examination had been made.

In March the Council decided to include cerebro-spinal fever in the list of notifiable diseases.

I append a table of notifications for the last ten years:—

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Typhoid	5	1	2	2	0	1	1	4	2	0
Puerperal	1	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	1
Erysipelas	7	7	8	13	12	11	9	12	10	7
Scarlet Fever	4	4	52	26	15	3	8	5	4	1
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Diphtheria	21	19	7	8	12	40	50	4	28	4
Phthisis	(Voluntary Notification adopted June, 1906)								7	4

Measles.—A very large number of cases occurred during the first half of the year among the younger children attending school, and in consequence the Infant Schools were each closed for three weeks from the following dates:—

S. Mary's School	14th February.
S. John's	9th April.
Council	26th April.
Walton	1st May.

Cancer.—Twelve deaths from various forms of malignant disease were registered. This is eight less than in 1906. The average for the previous ten years is 10.10.

Sewage Works.—These have acted in a satisfactory manner through the year, under the management of Mr. Taylor, the Surveyor, and have discharged a good effluent. Whenever opportunity offers, the surface water of the town is being gradually discharged into natural water courses, instead of going into the sewers. This considerably facilitates the treatment of the sewage.

Drainage.—Many defects have been remedied.

In Walton an old defective brick sewer was found to be receiving sewage; in one of the houses draining into this sewer, two cases of diphtheria occurred in December, 1906, one proving fatal; this sewer has now been taken up and replaced by pipes properly jointed and laid.

Manor Park still remains unsewered, and the houses are drained into cesspits, which have to be emptied by the Council's men. Although I can attribute no cases of illness due to the existence of these cesspools, yet the provision of a proper scheme of drainage for this locality would be a great sanitary improvement.

On the Stoke Road Estate a large cesspool has been constructed by the Council, and this is emptied periodically. Owing to the levels in this part of the town preventing the sewers being connected with the main drainage system, this appears to be the best solution of the difficulty for the present.

On inspecting some of the poorer class of cottage property in the town, I have been struck by the very unsatisfactory condition of the closets attached to them; it is difficult to get many of the tenants to keep them in a respectable condition. No flushing cisterns exist among this class of houses.

Lodging Houses.—These have been inspected, and are clean and well kept on the whole; in one case the bedding was somewhat dirty, and attention was drawn to this. The lime-washing is carried out regularly.

Slaughter Houses —These are conducted in a satisfactory manner in most cases, and are lime-washed at the prescribed times, and kept as clean as their construction will allow; most of them being very old buildings renders this rather difficult.

In July the Inspector and myself saw a cow in a feeble and wasted condition on the premises of a butcher. At our request it was killed and the carcase was sent to a ducker; extensive tubercular disease existed in the intestines. In August parts of a carcase hanging in a slaughter-house presented signs of tubercular deposits; all affected portions were condemned. In September, $4\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. of joints of bacon, unfit for human food, were inspected on the premises of a butcher; they were condemned, and destroyed on the order of a Magistrate. The butcher was prosecuted by the Council, but the case was dismissed.

Knacker's Yard.—An application for registration of a knacker's yard was made, and plans for the same presented; these were passed subject to some alterations. Effective supervision of this trade will now be possible.

The cottages in which the poorer class of inhabitants are forced to live have been inspected by the Inspector and myself; many defects and repairs have been noted, notices served, and the repairs carried out, but the bad structural state of many of these dwellings is a bar to much improvement, and nothing short of closure would be of any lasting good. If this were carried out the displacement of the inhabitants would cause very great hardship, and probably lead to overcrowding in other quarters.

Waste Water from Milk Works.—This discharges into the canal below the first lock, and on many occasions has been observed to contain quantities of flakes of organic material. This is deposited in the bed of the canal, and gives rise to decomposition in the hot weather. On representation to the Condensed Milk Company they constructed a filter through which the water passes before flowing into the canal, and the condition of the effluent is now much improved.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—Bakehouses. The condition of these on inspection has proved satisfactory. Two underground bakehouses exist.

Workshops and Workplaces have been inspected, and in general found in satisfactory condition.

The Report of the Inspector, Mr. P. Davis, is appended, and I wish to record my thanks to him for his help during the year. The following particulars of work done are extracted from his Report:—

29	complaints received.	
527	houses or premises inspected.	
794	„ „ „ re-inspected.	
71	„ „ „ repaired, cleansed, or white-washed.	
11	„ disinfected.	
48	house drains repaired.	
24	houses provided with new drains.	
17	water closets repaired.	
6	„ „ supplied with water apparatus.	
9	new water closets provided.	
10	accumulations of manure, &c., removed.	
1	animal removed (within prohibited distance).	
18	bakehouses	} regularly inspected.
16	cowsheds	
15	slaughter-houses	
3	common lodging-houses	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. G. PARROTT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

